

FALL 2006 UCCF UPDATE

THANK GOD FOR 'PEACEFUL HAVEN CAMP' ON THE AZOV SEA....

And thank God for dedicated co-workers in UCCF UKRAINE! Director, Andrei Levchuk wrote recently – “I would like to tell you that work with you is a miracle for us! I know that God Himself established this Mission. I rejoice that God entrusted me with this work and I want to be His worthy servant.”

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A report from Camp Director, Tatiana Levchuk:

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“My heart is filled with joy that the camp went so well. I think that this year our camps were especially blessed! Compared to the previous year, the percentage of children who did not know Jesus was bigger. I wish you could have seen how God was working in children’s hearts during each camp session. Now that the camps are over, I will try to remember highlights that happened, but it is not easy – those days were so full of events. I will just tell you about a couple of teenagers – Anna and Artem.

ANNA, is one of the many girls who has never been to church or Sunday School. She is 16. On the second day of camp her counselor came and asked me to talk to Anna because her behaviour was not good. I explained to Anna about our camp rules which she must follow. The next day Anna asked if she could talk privately with me. So that evening we went to a quiet place to talk. Anna told me about her family. She and her older brother and young sister live with their mother, as the father abandoned them telling them that he doubted they were his own children anyway. Her brother is an invalid – he can’t talk or walk on his own. And this girl, who has never been to a Christian church, told me: “Tatiana, I don’t want my life to be the same as my mother’s. I don’t want to suffer as she does. What should I do?” I understood that God gave me such a great opportunity to tell Anna about Jesus. We talked until late at night. Anna told me, “I would like to believe in God as you do, but I can’t!” She was impressed by our camp team for she used to think only old people go to church and here we were – young and happy Christians. We kept praying for her. Anna said she wanted to pray and repent, but sadly she put it off. She heard a lot about Jesus and I gave her my Bible which she promised to read. Please pray for Anna.

ARTEM is 13 years’ old. He has attended our Sunday School in Kushugum, but not regularly. His father is against his going to church. This year, to my great joy, I heard that one evening just before going to bed when Artem was talking with his camp counselor, he repented. When Artem talks about his decision to follow Christ, his face shines with happiness. I know that it is going to be hard for him, because his father will not approve. Please pray for Artem.”

Thank God, this summer many children heard the message of Jesus and His love!

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OUR UCCF CHRISTMAS PROJECT: ORPHANS

Written by Board member, Marlene Kremmer

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At this time of year we realize you may already feel overwhelmed by appeals from many worthy missions and organizations. Feeling hesitant to add to this bombardment, but also continuing to feel heartbroken over the plight of many orphans in the Ukraine, we bring you our special prayer needs. We don't have a nice glossy catalogue to send you to choose items from, or even suggestions of things to fill a shoe box. What we do have are dedicated volunteer UCCF UKRAINE co-workers, who spend many hours helping and interacting with orphans, therefore having first-hand knowledge of their immediate and most important necessities. All they ask for their efforts is our help so they can continue to supply some of the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of these forsaken little ones.

Some children have no parents, many others have parents who in difficult times became addicted to drugs and alcohol and are unable or unwilling to care for their children. These children are sent to already overburdened state orphanages or simply abandoned. Some parents moved and left children behind. Many of the older ones become 'street orphans' and try to survive on their own. Abandoned babies are found lying in streets, in parks and market places. They are usually taken to hospitals, where they join other babies already there because they were left behind by the mothers at birth. The present policy is that these babies remain in the hospital until they are two years old. They are then transferred to an orphanage, with no possessions of their own and having never known a loving family.

Most hospitals and orphanages lack funds to supply even the most basic needs. Hospital administrators were at first reluctant to have Christians come into the wards, but as they saw how lovingly our co-workers brought baby food, formula, bedding, and much-needed diapers, their hearts softened. You can imagine how little faces light up when we are able to supply them with cuddly toys.

In the orphanages our co-workers, as well as supplying physical needs and sometimes little treats, realize that the greatest gift they can give a child is to help lead them to a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus – the One who will never leave them or forsake them. They have been allowed to form Bible Clubs, teach Bible lessons and choruses, and personally demonstrate the love of Christ.

In our past issues of UCCF Updates we have told you about Victor and Svetlana Hanzhov – two of our co-workers in the Ukraine. Not being content with just visiting, over the years they have adopted 7 orphans, now ranging from 3 years to teenagers. As well, Svetlana, with a heart full of love and compassion for orphans, often takes others home for weekend breaks, holidays, or vacation times with her family. Svetlana has a dream of having a suitable place to which she could bring even more orphans. She knows how important it is for them to have a break from the orphanage, to give them the personal attention they need. She says she would like to cook, wash for them, and teach them to pray and trust God.

If God has touched your heart with the same compassion Svetlana feels, you can share in our Christmas Orphan Project and help her 'dream' come true, or your Christmas gift will be used for the babies in hospitals, or in orphanage outreach. Remember also that there are many elderly grandmothers who are bravely trying to raise abandoned grandchildren on their small pensions. Our co-workers visit many such homes and try to help with special needs.

Thank you for remembering our Peaceful Haven Camp on the Azov Sea! Many children, including orphans and street children, are sponsored to attend this camp. Where else could we send a child for 10 days of Bible camp for just \$85!! You will see photos in this issue of our 2006 summer camps. Some of these children have said, "It is like going to Heaven on Earth!"

How privileged we are to have a part in reaching these little ones for Jesus!

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CAMP WORKER, MARINA'S LETTER...

(Marina came to know the Lord about three years ago through the witness of her son, Alexander. Alexander repented at Peaceful Haven Camp and was baptized in 2005. Both he and his mother now serve the Lord at the Camp.)

"I was a craft teacher at the camp this year and I thank God that He entrusted this ministry to me. This is my second year at camp, but this summer was special because all my family was at the camp - my husband Sergei, elder son Alexander, and me. It was a blessing for us all! In spite of hardship and tiredness, I felt incomparable joy in knowing that God was doing His work in the children's hearts.

We had a wonderful team of counselors. A girl called Ira, who lives near my home, often tells me, "My leader Nina was the best!" Ira is now gathering children on our street and they have Bible lessons. She teaches them to sing Christian songs and several times they had craft lessons. This girl is only 11 years old. Her grandmother told me that Ira constantly sings the songs she learned in the camp.

One woman whose children were at our camp for the first time, told me: "What have you done to my children? They both sing every day. But I like their songs!" Her daughter Valya was in the camp for the first time and after camp she told me, "I've learned to pray!"

This year we had more children from broken families, orphans, and families where the parents are drunkards. We had many good conversations during our class and the children shared their problems.

I have a friend, Vlada. She is not a believer but she gladly let her son Artem go to the camp. And he repented there. When Artem told me about the decision he made, his face shone with happiness. He said, "I've repented! It was so difficult. But I understood that I could not delay anymore." (*Please pray for the mother, and the father who is against Artem going to church.)

I thank God that He leads us so wonderfully. Thank you for your help. May God bless you all in your work."

~Marina

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SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS TO THE LORD - We have now sent all the necessary funds to purchase the two much-needed vehicles for co-workers Tatiana Levchuk and Vitaly & Lyuba Kuvanchenko. They send their heartfelt thanks to all those who gave so generously and made this possible!

We thank God for our dear co-workers in UCCF GERMANY. In view of our high postage rates, Bro. Andreas Besmehn has willingly agreed to ship most of the Relief Parcels from Germany. He reports that so far this year they already sent 35 parcels, each 20 kg, totaling 700 kg. Most clothing is donated locally there, but we will assist with special items and mailing costs from our Relief Fund in Canada. Parcels often took from 4 to 6 weeks to reach them from Canada, so this will be a great assistance to us. The co-workers in Ukraine were grateful for the sports equipment, folders for hymn sheets, etc. that were sent for the Camp in some of the parcels from Germany.

They will now be preparing Christmas packets to bring joy to many. We know Andreas, wife Sabine, and co-worker Doris would appreciate your prayers for them in this work.

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Gal. 6:10

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The Lynn timer family is one such `household`. Here is their letter of thanks:

“Dear friends: Greetings from your friends in Jesus Christ from Zaporozhie – Anna, Dasha, and Elena. We thank you for your financial help that we receive regularly. We regard it as our Heavenly Father’s care. Our Lord knows our needs and He gives His help at a proper time. Praise be to Him for His love for us.

I would like to tell a little about my family. God gave me two daughters – Dasha and Elena. In May 2004 my husband died. Dasha is 15, she is a student at a technical school. Elena is 14 and she goes to the 8th grade. My ministry is teaching Bible lessons at the orphanages and hospital. Besides, a Bible Study circle – A Good News Club – has been conducted at my house for the past 7 years. We thank God for your ministry. May God reward you for your kindness!

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Cor.15:58

~Lynn timer family.

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Some of our readers will recall about a year ago the Lord made it possible for us to send funds to the Kostenko family. Bro. Andrei Levchuk wrote the following:

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“I would like to tell you that only a short time ago all the works were finally finished to make gas heating in the house of Svetlana Kostenko. Remember, more than a year ago I asked you to help this family. Svetlana brought up 7 children. Her husband ruined himself by drinking. Every winter this family tried to warm the house as they could. Coal is very expensive, so the children used to go to the oil mill and brought sunflower seeds husks to burn at home. You can imagine how happy they are that this winter all is going to be different! Svetlana wrote to you who made this possible.....

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus! I address the Lord with prayerful gratitude that on this huge planet there was a place for my family in hearts of children of God. Hearty thanks for material aid for ‘gasification’ of the house. I ask the Lord that all you spent for us – means, attention, care – would return to you, the workers on God’s field. With gratitude, with prayers for your health, well-being, peace of mind, with love in Christ Jesus, Svetlana Kostenko, aged 52, a member of the Church for 5 years.”

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“UCCF UPDATE” – News from Ukraine, mailed free to interested friends

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UCCF PROVIDES CANADIAN TAX-DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPTS FOR ALL DONATIONS